A staff member observed a classroom where students were clustered around laptops sharing slides they’d made in response to some nonfiction reading. She watched for 30 seconds and then addressed the students. She recognized the way they were listening to each other and sharing feedback to improve their work. She complimented the care that was reflected in the way they were interacting; she noticed their focus, the pride they demonstrated and their overall engagement. Then she connected her observation of the students to the teacher. “[Your teacher] is a listener. One of the most important things we can do in life is to listen to others because we all want to be heard. This is something that [your teacher] does really well and that she is encouraging you to do.” The class honored the moment, thanked the observer with a student initiated whoosh clap and continued working.

We are trying to promote positive energy at Stoner Prairie. Staff are interacting with the intent to recognize students and to deliver six positive comments, spoken from the heart, to every criticism or reprimand. This is a challenging ratio given our tendency as a society to over energize the negative. We’re trying to flip that.

Adults at Stoner Prairie are drawing attention to the choices students are making to support a positive school/classroom. Some of our recent effort has been focused on staff members acknowledging one another in the presence of students. We are noticing that students are making decisions that show focus, appreciation, respect, and support. Positive student behavior also reflects the clarity, high expectations, careful planning, and enthusiasm of their teachers.

Our attention to character qualities is based on the Nurtured Heart Approach®. It is a philosophy for living initially developed by Howard Glasser for work with challenging, often misunderstood children. It rests on three stands designed to recognize and foster inner wealth. The stands build on one another sequentially. The first two invite us to eliminate negativity while increasing positivity through genuine, evidence-based recognition. A third stand introduces clarity of rules or boundaries to help shape choices. It is a transformational approach for energizing healthy relationships.

The Nurtured Heart Approach® honors intensity and conflict as agents to propel us to examine our energy and choices. You can learn more about NHA at the Children’s Success Network www.childrenssuccessfoundation.com/.

Please join us in our effort to energize success! 6:1!
Staff Appreciation Lunch - Can you help?

The week of May 5 is staff appreciation week. One of the ways we say THANKS to all the wonderful staff at Stoner Prairie is the Staff Appreciation Lunch. This lunch will be held on Monday, May 5, from 11:00 - 1:00. Planning has already started and volunteers are needed to help with set up, serving, or clean up on the day of the event. If you cannot assist on that day, volunteers are also needed prior to the event to decorate the room, make a dish, or help with other needed tasks. If you are interested in helping (and we hope many of you will eagerly do so!), please contact the event coordinators, Angel Lim Meyers 274-7643 or Ann Stitgen 276-7961.

Some of you already signed up in the fall when you filled out a form that was included in your child’s registration, to either make a dish, help at the event, or both. We have that list and you will be contacted in the near future. Let’s show our Stoner Prairie staff how much we appreciate all that they do for our children!! If you have any questions, feel free to call Ann or Angel.

Lost & Found
Please check our lost & found for any missing clothing items. Bins are located in the hallway outside the Multipurpose Room. Any lost & found clothing still in our bins at Spring Break will be donated to a charity at that time.

Think Pink!

Last month Stoner Prairie presented 231 pink lids to the local Susan G. Komen office. The staff was delighted! You are encouraged to keep bringing pink Yoplait lids and other pink Komen symbols to school throughout the remainder of the school year. Many thanks. Go PINK!

Have you moved?

If you move during the school year, please call Ms. Perez in our school office to notify her of your new address. The Verona Area School District requires 3 forms of proof of residence including a copy of your mortgage or lease and two utility bills indicating your new address.

Moving within the school year does NOT always mean you cannot stay at Stoner Prairie. You may complete a tuition waiver form to continuing attending the current school year.
Grade 2 President’s Day Parade

Grade 2 Collections Museum
Health Room News

Immunization Information for Children Through 18 Years
Public Health – Madison and Dane County can provide free immunizations for children who:

- Do not have any insurance
- Have Medical Assistance or Badger Care
- Have 'major medical insurance' (only covering hospitalization; no preventive care coverage)
- Are Native American or Alaska Native

If you have health insurance that covers vaccines, call your provider to be immunized.

- PHMDC can no longer immunize ANY children or adults who have private health insurance covering vaccines, even if they must meet a deductible or have a co-pay.
- Call your insurance company to learn what vaccines are paid for with your policy.

For most current schedule [www.publichealthmdc.com](http://www.publichealthmdc.com) or call (608)266-4821

Información de vacunación para niños y jóvenes de hasta 18 años
Salud Pública – Madison y Condado de Dane puede administrar vacunas gratis a los niños y jóvenes que:

- No tienen ningún seguro médico
- Tienen Asistencia Médica o Badger Care
- Tienen un seguro de “gastos médicos mayores” (que cubre sólo las hospitalizaciones y no la medicina preventiva)
- Son nativo-americanos o de Alaska

Si usted tiene un seguro que cubre las vacunas, llame a su clínica para vacunarse.

- PHMDC ya no puede vacunar a NINGÚN niño o adulto que tenga seguro médico privado con cobertura para vacunas, incluso si se tiene que pagar un copago o un deducible.
- Llame a su seguro para informarse de las vacunas que se pagan con su póliza médica.

Please Use our Online Resources

Visit the District Website at [www.verona.k12.wi.us](http://www.verona.k12.wi.us) for many online forms,

District Calendar

Lunch Menus

Electronic Copies of this Newsletter
Related Arts Notes

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you might have regarding our classes.

ART - Jayne Baitinger-Peterson 608-845-4276  Jayne.Baitinger-Peterson@verona.k12.wi.us

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Jill Thronson  608-845-4248  Jill.Thronson@verona.k12.wi.us

MUSIC - Leanne Stucki 608-845-4279  Leanne.Stucki@verona.k12.wi.us

Thank you all very much for your donations of supplies, if you would like to donate brown grocery bags, please drop them off by the art room door!

ART NOTES from Ms. Baitinger-Peterson

Children receive art instruction in the ART room for 60 minutes once per week

MARCH IS YOUTH ART MONTH! Look for information coming out soon about upcoming Art displays throughout the district in March!

Read below to learn what each grade level will be displaying for this year’s April 17th Celebrate the Arts art show entitled; FIN and FEATHER.

Kindergarteners have been learning all about OWLS. The books, “All About Owls” by Jim Ornosky and “Owls” by Gail Gibbons have been so inspiring. Whoooo knows, you may be able to identify many kinds of owls after viewing these 3D creations made of egg cartons paint and feathers!

Both Lois Ehlert and Eric Carle; authors and artists, have inspired first graders to create collage fish. We won’t say too much because we want you to be surprised when you see them on April 17th. But they are very “painterly” just like Eric Carle’s style of collage.

Second Graders will enjoy the illustrations and story in; “Sylvie” by Jennifer Sattler. Sylvie the flamingo learns all about what it means to be a flamingo. She is the inspiration for many creative second grade bright pink flamingos!

Third Graders have been busy learning about all different types of birds, from cardinals to blue jays and owls to eagles. After drawing the bird of their choice and tracing onto printmaking Styrofoam, students then added environments from a second Styrofoam printing block. The prints require patience and skill and third graders are doing a great job!

Fourth and Fifth Graders are completing a two part lesson. First, clay dogs were created representing all kinds of breeds including labs, retrievers, collies and terriers, to name just a few. As the clay dogs were drying and being fired, the second part of the lesson began. We looked at a variety of examples of architecture from all over the world. The pyramids of Egypt, igloos of Alaska, castles in England, barns, tiki huts from Hawaii, houses of all kinds, even the White House and the Sydney Opera House in Australia. All of these examples have inspired some very creative dog houses, They are dog houses, made from cardboard, wood dowels, Styrofoam, paper and whatever else we found in the art storage room. What fun and creativity! Can’t wait to display them in the LMC and in the front lobby display cases! Fourth and fifth graders will be working on their piece for the art show. Their piece is called; “Koinobori” and is a Japanese word for carp-shaped windsocks. In Japan, May 5th is “Tango no Sekku” or Children’s Day.

If you would like to donate brown grocery bags to the art room, please send them to school with your child or drop them off anytime by the art room door.

Thanks for your help!
MUSIC NOTES from Ms. Stucki

Children receive Music instruction in the Music room for 30 minutes twice per week, for a total of 60 min. per week.

March is designated as “MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH.” This started in 1973 to draw attention to the significance of music education in schools and communities. Students have been working on a variety of music lessons celebrating this year’s theme of MUSIC MAKES ME! This month students are beginning to prepare for the all school performance CELEBRATE THE ARTS that will be held in the gym on the morning of Thursday, April 17. More information will be sent home to let you know when your child/children will be performing! Please mark your calendar for this exciting morning in the Stoner Prairie gym where you will be treated to singing, recorders, boomwhackers dancing and an art show!

Songs called Freeze, My Red Sled and The Little Snowflake helped us celebrate winter. The Beatles helped Kindergarten and First Grade students continue to work on a steady beat. Many students had listened to music by The Beatles before. Yeah, Yeah, Yeah! Penguin Polka, Snow Day and Snowy, Rainy, Icy, Chilly were fun cold weather songs. Second and Third Grade students are learning about Jazz greats like Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald and are enjoying the sounds of jazz.

A very large box was delivered to the music room that was filled with recorders that were ordered by Grade 4 and 5 students. After learning about caring for their recorders and proper hand position, the students are now learning songs that use the notes G, A and B. Classes play echo games to warm up and review notes and then play new songs reading notes on the staff. I hope you will be hearing some recorder tunes as your child practices the new songs that they receive each week.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION NOTES from Ms. Thronson

Children receive Physical Education instruction in the Gym for 30 minutes twice per week, for a total of 60 min. per week.

We all love the Rollerblading unit! Mr. Pisani came in to skate with Ms. Johnson’s class.
VAHS THEATRE Presents

Freckleface Strawberry

The Musical

Based on the book by Julianne Moore, VAHS Theatre Arts will present *Freckleface Strawberry* on March 7-9, 2014 in the VAHS Performing Arts Center.

Freckleface Strawberry was just like every other girl, except for one thing...she had freckles everywhere! Freckleface Strawberry will do anything to get rid of her freckles – from scrubbing them with soap, to caking on makeup, and even wearing a ski mask to school! Will her schoolmates realize it's her under the mask? Will Freckleface be brave enough to finally face her complexion in the mirror? With the help of her loveable schoolmates including an amazingly talented ballerina, a cutie jock, a charming ditz, and a totally kooky teacher, Freckleface learns that everyone is different - and that's what makes everyone special! With fun music, awesome dancing... and a freckleface full of laughs, your whole family will love this brand new musical for all ages . . . freckles or not!

The VAHS Theatre production will feature a talented cast of veteran performers and new faces to the VAHS stage. The cast features Natalie Long in the title role. Joining her onstage in the ensemble is Alex Roller, Max Luke, Randy Kessenich, Elise Everitt, Frost White, Enya Joyner, Cassidy Slinger, Rylie Butzbaugh, Makena Meyers, Erin Bormett, Molly Kempfer, Thomas Endter, Zoe Hansen, Maggie Ferguson, Cierrah Stampfli, Jenine Ybanez, Mary Schroeder, and Sheldon Wood. Harry Ireland will stage manage and Mariah Braier will choreograph.

Tickets for the production are $5.00 and can be obtained by calling the VAHS Theatre box office at 845-4488.
Backyard Birding & Build-Your-Own Bird Feeder

Learn about the birds we see in our backyards, and then make your own bird feeder! In this family-oriented, hands-on program, the Madison Audubon Society will present on how to make your backyard a bird-friendly habitat and then show you how to make several different types of bird feeders using recycled materials.

The program will include a demonstration on how to use YardMap, an online, free citizen mapping project that allows you to enter the birds you see at your feeder to contribute important data to scientists on how residential habitat supports bird life.

This program is open to adults, teens, and families (we ask that younger children please be accompanied by an adult).

Saturday, March 1st
2:00-3:00 p.m.
Upstairs Library Meeting Room

For more information, contact Erin Saylor:
erin.saylor@fitchburgwi.gov
608-729-1784